

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Georgia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Rule of Law
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	114-0220
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$4,025,000 FSA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$323,000 FSA
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$4,500,000 FSA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1993
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	2004

**Summary:** USAID's Rule of Law (ROL) program supports efforts to assist Georgia to lay a sound legal foundation on which to build a stable market economy and democratic governance. USAID programs encourage local empowerment through public awareness of legal rights and supporting legal access mechanisms enabling pursuit of these rights, and increasing the capacity of legal institutions to implement and enforce better laws and regulations.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2003 Program:

Rule of law (\$3,725,000 FSA). USAID will continue its support to empower citizens through public awareness of their legal rights, and will support legal access mechanisms to enable them to pursue these rights. Assistance also will continue to increase the capacity of legal institutions to enact and implement better laws and regulations in a predictable and transparent manner. Clear legal boundaries on the exercise of government power need to be established to enhance accountability and reduce opportunities for corruption and self-dealing. Citizen awareness and action to challenge government actions will provide the key monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to maintain these boundaries. Assistance for supporting independent judiciary and enhancing legal professionalism will continue. Principal contractors and grantees are: the American Bar Association's Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) (prime), IRIS Center at the University of Maryland (prime), the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (sub), Liberty Institute (sub), Internews, Center for International Legal Cooperation (sub), AMEX International (sub), Court Management Associates (sub), Abt Associates (sub), and Nathan Associates (sub).

Program development and support (\$300,000 FSA). USAID will utilize these funds for supporting program-funded management staff and other costs related to program design and development.

#### FY 2004 Program:

Rule of law (\$ 4,200,000 FSA). The Rule of Law program is expected to be refined to respond to the new strategic directions and will build on the experiences of the current program.

Program development and support (\$300,000 FSA). USAID will utilize these funds for supporting program-funded management staff and other costs related to program design and development.

**Performance and Results:** The adoption of the General Administrative Code and the Administrative Procedure Code, which went into force in January 2000, represented extraordinary advances for Georgia, breaking new legal ground for Eurasian states. Initial USAID assistance focused on the provisions dealing with freedom of information and the transparency of public agency meetings. Interested citizens and informed courts have used the codes, helping to bring about a noticeable impact in their implementation. A reformed judiciary has decided cases and given meaning to the Administrative Codes' progressive provisions. For example, government agencies have been compelled to disclose information they sought to withhold, and disputes between citizens and agencies have been resolved pursuant to the

new procedures. In FY 2002, "Know Your Rights" public service announcements were launched on all major TV channels addressing issues such as bribery, equality under the law, court decisions, and religious rights.

Licensing is a quintessential administrative law function of the government, and one of the most susceptible to abuse and corruption in the absence of transparent procedures and standards. In FY 2002, with the support of USAID and other donors, a new reform Licensing Law was enacted and harmonized with the provisions of the Administrative Code. Implementation of this new law provides opportunities to improve the administrative process for individual citizens and private enterprises. In addition to supporting administrative rights, USAID provides significant resources to support human rights through legal clinics and legal service organizations. In FY 2002, the legal aid centers have been expanded into Georgia's regions to cover larger groups of indigent citizens. The number of cases and legal consultations has increased substantially. There is a growing need for public defense and increasing willingness of the population to access legal remedies to solve disputes.

Progress on judicial reform continues. In FY 2002 the Council of Justice held one judicial qualification examination. After passing the examination, the seven judicial candidates participated in a competition for vacant positions and underwent a vetting process. The implementation of a merit-based system for selecting judges represents a major achievement for judicial independence. The Judges of Georgia, a private judges' association established with USAID support, continues to grow and has extended its services to judges in the regions. Judicial reform progress, however, could be hindered if the GOG does not provide the judges adequate salary.

In spite of several years of stiff opposition from Soviet-era legal associations, Parliament, with support from legal advocacy organizations and private attorneys, enacted a Law on Advocates. This progressive law mandates the qualification examinations and the introduction of a Code of Ethics for advocates. Prior to the examinations, the Collegium of Advocates (the former Soviet lawyers' union) initiated retrograde amendments to the law. These amendments are still pending in Parliament, thus stalling the entire process of introducing qualification exams and establishing a national bar association.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Georgia

114-0220 Rule of Law	<b>FSA</b>
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>	
Obligations	6,394
Expenditures	5,312
Unliquidated	1,082
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>	
Obligations	3,130
Expenditures	327
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>	
Obligations	9,524
Expenditures	5,639
Unliquidated	3,885
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	323
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>	
Obligations	4,025
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>	
Obligations	4,348
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>	
Obligations	4,500
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	18,372